

NONBINDING PUBLIC POLICY QUESTION

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 53, Section 18A, a nonbinding public policy advisory question may be placed on the ballot at an Annual Town Election by either of the following ways:

1. By vote of the Board of Selectmen at least 35 days prior to the date of the Annual Town Election. The 2014 Annual Town Election is scheduled for March 25, 2014.
2. By petition signed by at least 10% of the registered voters in Concord. The petition must be filed with the Town Clerk at least 42 days prior to the date of the Annual Town Election. However, before such a petition may be filed with the Town Clerk, the nonbinding public opinion advisory question must first be presented to the Board of Selectmen for consideration to be placed on the ballot more than 90 days before the next Annual Town Election. This request must be made by petition signed by at least 10 registered voters. Ample time should be allowed to be sure that the item may be placed on the Board's agenda for a meeting prior to the 90-day deadline. If the Selectmen decline to approve placing the ballot question at least 90 days prior to the Annual Town Election, then the petition may proceed.

Relevant Dates for 2014 Annual Town Election:

1. March 25, 2014 – Annual Town Election
2. February 18, 2014 – last day for Board of Selectmen to submit Non-Binding Public Policy Question to Town Clerk for inclusion on ballot (35th day prior to Election)
3. February 11, 2014 – last day for citizens' petition to be filed with Town Clerk asking that a Non-Binding Public Policy Question be included on the Annual Town Election ballot (42nd day prior to Election). Petition must be signed by 10% of the registered voters in Concord. Town Clerk has 7 days to certify petition signatures (certification done by 35th day prior to Election). This may only be done if the Selectmen have declined to do so at least 90 days prior to the Election.
4. December 24, 2013 – last day for Board of Selectmen to decline placing a non-binding public policy question on the Annual Town Election ballot (90th day prior to Election¹), after having been petitioned to do so by 10 registered voters in Concord.

¹ The 90th day prior to March 25, 2014 falls on December 25, 2013 (state holiday), so the 90th day deadline moves to December 24, 2013.